Potential Gas Committee Natural Gas Resource Estimates

(as of December 31, 2000)

The Potential Gas Committee (PGC) reports gas resource estimates biennially in categories of decreasing certainty: Probable, Possible and *Speculative.* For each category, a minimum, most *likely,* and *maximum* resource volume is estimated for each of 89 geological provinces. The mean values shown on the following table were calculated by statistical aggregation of the *minimum, most likely* and maximum values for each category of potential resource. This procedure allows for direct comparison of PGC's estimates with gas resource assessments made by other organizations.

	(Mean Values, Tcf)		Change
	2000	1998	1998- 2000
Traditional Resources:			
Probable resources (current fields)	207.0	216.0	
Possible resources (new fields)	332.2	293.0	
Speculative resources (frontier)	397.8	385.7	
Subtotal Traditional	935.8	896.1	+4.4%
Coalbed Methane:			
Probable resources	16.3	**14.4**	
Possible resources	54.3	43.5	
Speculative resources	84.6	83.6	
Subtotal Coalbed Methane	155.2	141.4	+9.7%
Proved Reserves (DOE estimates)	167.4	167.0	
Grand Total	1258.4	**1204.5**	**+4.5%**

Note: Totals subject to rounding and slight differences due to statistical aggregation of distributions.

More

The PGC reports these estimates in three categories: Probable, Possible and *Speculative* for 89 assessed provinces that are grouped into seven geographic areas for traditional resources and coalbed methane.

The comparison of the statistically aggregated mean values for these seven areas for 1998 and 2000 are as follows:

	(Mean Values, Tcf)		Change
Area	2000	1998	19982000
Atlantic	103.9	103.9	0
North Central	22.2	22.2	0
Gulf **Coast..**	.259.4	265.5	-2.3%
Mid-Continent	.124.4	122.1	+1.9%
Rocky Mountain..	.176.6	150.0	+1 7.7%
Pacific	55.0	37.2	+47.8%
Alaska..	193.8	193.8	0
Coalbed Methane (all areas)	155.2	141.4	+9.7%
Proved Reserves (DOE Estimates)	167.4	167.0	
Total U.S.	1258.4	1204.5	**+4.5%**

Note: Totals subject to rounding and slight differences due to statistical aggregation of distributions.

The Potential Gas Committee today also released the latest in a series of reports comparing five sets of natural gas resource estimates published by various U.S. natural gas industry and government organizations. The report, *A Comparison of Estimates of Ultimately Recoverable Quantities of Natural Gas in the United States (Gas Resources Studies No. 8, March, 2001)*, examines the results, assumptions and methodologies of each of the sets of estimates. The report concludes that, while different organizations do not estimate the same precise categories of natural gas under the same set of assumptions, there is a consensus that a large, accessible potential gas resource exists which backs up the current inventory of U.S. proved reserves and is available to make a larger contribution to our Nation's energy supply.

The PGC report, *Potential Supply of Natural Gas in the United Slates (December 37, 2000)* and the estimates comparison report are now available and may be ordered as a set from the Potential Gas Agency, Colorado School of Mines, **Golden, CO 80401-I 887, for $295 ($315 for foreign** shipment), if payment accompanies the order.

For additional information about ordering these and previous reports, contact John B. Curtis, Director, jbcurtis@mines.edu or Linda D'Epagnier, ldepagni@mines.edu Program Assistant, at the Potential Gas Agency, telephone 303-273-3886, fax 303-273-3574.